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Kenya



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Official Name:
Republic of Kenya

PROFILE

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Kenyan(s). **Population** (1981 est.): 17.5 million. **Annual growth rate** (1982 est.): 4%. **Ethnic groups:** African—Kikuyu 21%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 11%, Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, Meru 5%. Non-African (1%)—Asian, European, Arab. **Religions:** Indigenous beliefs 26%, Protestant 38%, Roman Catholic 28%, Muslim 6%. **Languages:** English, Swahili, and many tribal languages. **Education:** Years compulsory—none, but first 7 yrs. of primary school are provided free by government. **Attendance**—83% for primary grades. **Func-**

tional literacy in English—25%. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—83/1,000. *Life expectancy* (1977)—men 51.2 yrs., women 55.2 yrs. **Work force** (1.1 million wage earners): *Agriculture*—17%. *Industry and commerce*—18%. *Services*—13%. *Public sector*—47%.

Geography

Area: 582,646 sq. km. (224,960 sq. mi.); slightly smaller than Texas. **Cities:** *Capital*—Nairobi (pop. 959,000 in 1978). *Other cities*—Mombasa (401,000), Kisumu (115,000). **Terrain:** Varied. **Climate:** Varies from tropical to arid.

Government

Type: Republic. **Independence:** December 12, 1963. **Constitution:** 1963.

Branches: *Executive*—president (chief of state, head of government, commander in chief of armed forces). *Legislative*—unicameral National Assembly (parliament). *Judicial*—High Court, various lower courts.

Administrative subdivisions: 40 rural districts, joined to form 7 rural provinces. Nairobi area has special status.

Political party: Kenya African National Union (KANU). **Suffrage:** Universal over 18.

Central government budget (1981–82): \$1.914 billion.

Defense: 5.4% of GDP.

Flag: Black, red, and green horizontal bands from top to bottom, separated by narrow white stripes. A warrior's shield and crossed spears are centered on flag.

Economy

GDP (1981 current prices): \$3.242 billion. **Annual growth rate** (1981): 4.5%. **Per capita income** (1981): \$196. **Inflation rate** (1981): 12.6%.

Natural resources: Wildlife, land.

Agriculture (35% of 1981 GDP): *Products*—corn, wheat, rice, sugarcane, coffee, tea, sisal, pineapples, pyrethrum, meat and meat products, hides, skins. *Arable land*—20%.

Industry (15% of 1981 GDP): Petroleum products, cement, beer.

Trade (15% of 1981 GDP): *Exports*—\$1.085 billion: coffee, petroleum products, tea, hides and skins, meat and meat products, cement, pyrethrum, sisal, soda ash, wattle extract, pineapples. *Major markets*—EC, US, Canada, Zambia, Iran, Japan, Australia, India, China. *Imports*—\$1.859 billion: crude petroleum, machinery, vehicles, iron and steel, paper and paper products, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, textiles. *Major suppliers*—EC, US, Canada, Zambia, Iran, Japan, Australia, India, China.

Fiscal year: July 1–June 30.

Official exchange rate (1981 avg.): 10.29

Kenya shillings (Ksh.)=US\$1.

Economic aid received: *Total*—More than \$2.2 billion through 1980. *US aid*—\$333.8 million in grants and loans, FY 1951–81.

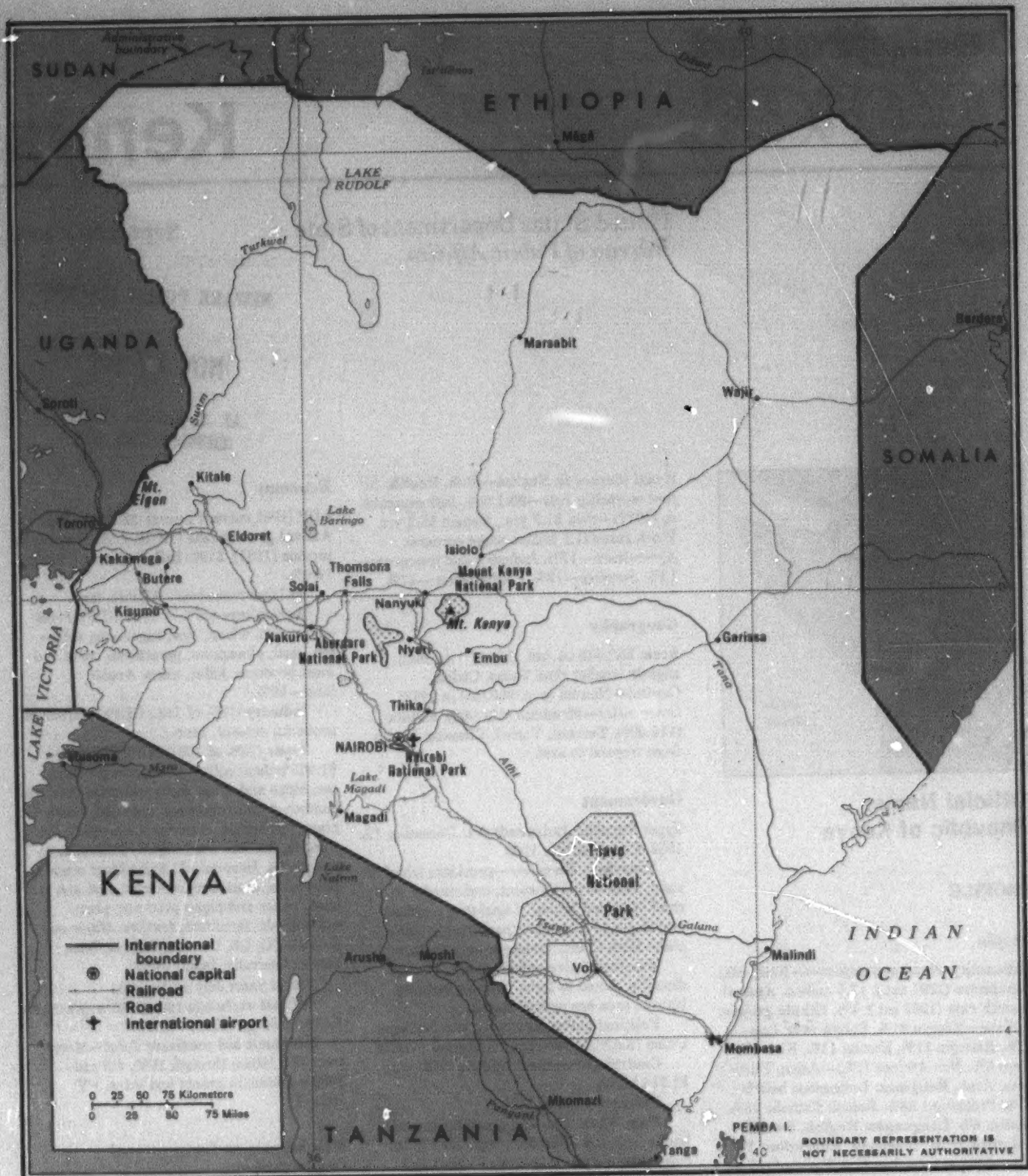
Membership in International Organizations

UN and several of its specialized agencies, Organization of African Unity (OAU), Nonaligned Movement, Group of 77, Commonwealth of Nations, INTELSAT.

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PEOPLE

Kenya's population is richly varied. Traditional herders, Arab Muslims, and cosmopolitan residents of Nairobi all contribute to Kenya's culture. The standard of living in major cities is among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Most city workers retain close links with their rural, extended families, and many leave the city periodically to help work on the family farm. About 88% of the population live in rural areas, and about three-fourths of Kenya's work force are engaged in agriculture, mainly as subsistence farmers. About 1 million are employed in the economy's modern sector.

The national motto of Kenya is *harambee*, which means "pull together." Every year, in the spirit of this slogan, Kenyan volunteers in hundreds of communities build schools, clinics, and other needed facilities and collect funds to send students abroad. The University of Nairobi has about 6,000 students but is able to accept only 60% of the Kenyan students who qualify for admission.

GEOGRAPHY

Astride the Equator on the east coast of Africa, Kenya is bounded by Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Lake Victoria, Somalia, and the Indian Ocean.

It is a country of striking topographical and climatic variety. The northern three-fifths is arid, much of it semi-desert, inhabited only by nomadic pastoralists. Eighty-five percent of the population and almost all economic activity are located in the southern two-fifths of the country. South of the Tana River, along the coast, tropical temperatures and beautiful beaches have provided the setting for a well-developed tourist resort industry centered at the port city of Mombasa. Thornbush scrubland extends about 280 kilometers (175 mi.) from the coast.

The Great Rift Valley, extending south from Lake Turkana (formerly Lake Rudolf) in the west, is from 48 to 64 kilometers (30-40 mi.) wide and often 610-915 meters (2,000-3,000 ft.) lower than the surrounding country. Mt. Kenya (5,194 m.—17,040 ft.) and Mt. Elgon (4,267 m.—14,000 ft.) are in the Aberdare Mountains and Mau Escarpment of the Great Rift. High, sweeping plateaus, varying in altitude from 915 to 3,048 meters (3,000-10,000 ft.) above

sea level, stretch between the mountain ranges and have some of Africa's most fertile soil. The land descends gradually from the western rift formation to the shores of Lake Victoria.

In an effort to preserve Kenya's wildlife, the government has set aside more than 2.4 million hectares (6 million acres) for national parks and game preserves. Although game hunting and trade in ivory and skins have been banned, poaching threatens elephants, lions, cheetahs, leopards, and other species. Most game preserves have fine lodges where tourists can "rough it" in comfort.

Nairobi, the capital, is temperate year round at an altitude of 1,646 meters (5,400 ft.). Adorned with flowering trees and shrubs and beautiful houses and public buildings, Nairobi has become a hub of communications, international conferences, and commercial and industrial activities in east and central Africa.

Kenya generally has two rainy seasons: the "long rains" from April to June and the "short rains" from October to December. On the coast and the immediate interior, the average temperature is 27°C (80°F). Elsewhere, due to the altitude, Kenya's climate is cool and invigorating. At Nairobi, the mean maximum temperature is 25°C (77°F) and the mean minimum is 14°C (57°F).

HISTORY

Fossils found in east Africa suggest that protohumans roamed the area more than 20 million years ago. Recent anthropological finds near Kenya's Lake Turkana indicate that the *Homo* genus of humans lived in the area 2.6 million years ago.

Cushitic-speaking people, who occupied the area from about 1000 B.C., received Arab traders by the first century A.D. Kenya's proximity to Arabia invited colonization, and Arab and Persian settlements were founded by the eighth century A.D. By then, Bantu and Nilotic peoples also had moved into the area. The Swahili language, a mixture of Bantu and Arabic, developed as a lingua franca for trade between the different peoples. The Arabs were followed by the Portuguese in 1498, by Islamic control under the imam of Oman in the 1600s, and by British influence in the 19th century.

The colonial history of Kenya dates from the Berlin conference of 1885, when the European powers first partitioned east Africa into spheres of in-

fluence. In 1895, the British Government established the East African Protectorate and, soon after, opened the fertile highlands to white settlers. The settlers were allowed a voice in government even before it was officially made a British colony in 1920, but Africans were not allowed any direct political participation until 1944.

From October 1952 to December 1959, Kenya was under a state of emergency arising from the "Mau Mau" rebellion against British colonial rule. During this period, African participation in the political process increased rapidly. The first direct elections for Africans to the Legislative Council took place in 1957. Kenya became independent on December 12, 1963, and one year later, chose to assume the status of a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

Jomo Kenyatta, a member of the predominant Kikuyu tribe and head of the Kenya African National Union (KANU), became Kenya's first president. The minority party, Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU), representing a coalition of small tribes that had feared dominance by larger ones, dissolved itself voluntarily in 1964 and joined KANU.

A small but significant leftist opposition party, the Kenya People's Union (KPU), emerged in 1966, led by former Vice President and Luo elder Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. However, after the 1969 assassination of leading government official Tom Mboya and subsequent political tension, the KPU was banned and its leaders detained. Since 1969, no new opposition parties have been formed, and KANU remains the sole and ruling political party. Upon the death of Kenyatta on August 22, 1978, former Vice President Daniel arap Moi became interim president for 90 days in accordance with the provisions of the Kenyan constitution. On October 14, Moi became president in his own right, after he was elected president of KANU and designated as its sole nominee for president of the republic. In 1979, more than 740 candidates (all KANU members) competed for the 158 elected parliamentary seats. As in the 1969 and 1974 elections, more than half of the incumbents were unseated. In June 1982, the National Assembly amended the constitution, making Kenya a de jure one-party state. The next parliamentary election will be held in 1984.

GOVERNMENT

The president is elected by the National Assembly to serve a 5-year term. However, if the president dissolves the assembly, a new presidential election must be held. The president appoints the vice president and other cabinet members from among those elected to the assembly.

The unicameral National Assembly consists of 158 members, elected to a term of up to 5 years, plus 12 who are appointed by the president. In addition, the attorney general and the speaker are ex officio members of the National Assembly.

The judiciary is headed by a High Court, consisting of a chief justice and at least 11 associate judges, all appointed by the president.

The basic local administrative divisions are the 40 rural districts, each headed by a presidentially appointed commissioner. The districts are joined to form seven rural provinces. The Nairobi area, not included in any district or province, has a special status. The administration of districts and provinces is closely supervised by the central government.

Principal Government Officials

President—Daniel arap Moi
Vice President and Minister for Home Affairs—Mwai Kibaki
Minister of State in the Office of the President—Justis ole Tipis

Other Ministers

Constitutional Affairs—Charles Njonjo
Finance—Arthur K. Maguira

Water Development—Jeremiah J. Nyagah
Economic Planning and Development—Dr. Zachary T. Onyoka
Cooperative Development—Robert S. Matano
Agriculture—Dr. Munyua Waiyaki
Local Government—Moses B. Mudavadi
Information and Broadcasting—Eliud Mwamunga
Livestock Development—Paul J. Ngel
Foreign Affairs—Dr. Robert J. Ouko
Lands, Settlement, and Physical Planning—Godfrey G. Kariuki
Regional Development, Science, and Technology—Nicholas K. Biwott
Works and Housing—Charles W. Rubia
Higher Education—James J. Kamotho
Commerce—John H. Okwanyo
Culture and Social Services—Stanley Oloitiptip
Tourism and Wildlife—Elijah W. Mwangale
Energy—Gilbert Kabeere M'Mbijiwe
Basic Education—Dr. Jonathan K. arap Ngeno
Industry—Andrew J. Omanga
Transport and Communications—Henry K. Kogey
Environment and Natural Resources—William Odongo Omamo
Labor—Titus Mbathi
Health—Appolling Mukasa Mango
Attorney General—Joseph Kamau Kamere

Kenya maintains an embassy in the United States at 2249 R Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20008 (tel. 202-387-6101), a mission to the United Nations at 15 E. 51st Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 (tel. 212-421-4740), and a consulate at 9100 Wilshire Boulevard,

Los Angeles, Calif. 90212 (tel. 213-274-6635).

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Since independence, Kenya has maintained remarkable stability during many changes within the democratic system. The form of government has changed from federal to republic; the prime-ministerial system to presidential; the original, bicameral legislature merged into a unicameral body; and, most recently, Kenya became a de jure, one-party state. Although the government continues to pursue a policy of economic and labor Africanization, significant participation by Asians and Europeans is accepted. Internal development remains the dominant priority of the Moi government.

Kenya's major political challenge is to reinvigorate its economy, which has suffered from a combination of problems such as government deficit spending, a chronic shortage of foreign exchange, and the rising cost of oil imports. Also, attention has focused increasingly on the Horn of Africa and on liquidation of the defunct East African Community's (EAC) assets. Until 1977, the EAC provided Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania with a common market, customs union, and major transportation and communication services.

DEFENSE

The Ministry of Defense, headed by a minister and supported by a permanent secretary and chief of the general staff, has overall responsibility for command and control of the Kenyan armed services. The uniformed services constitute a small, professional establishment with a total strength of about 16,000 members. The army is the dominant service, with about 12,000 members, followed by the air force with 2,100 and navy with 650.

In 1976, the armed forces embarked upon a program to expand and modernize their capability to defend Kenya from external threat. Since then, the Kenyan Air Force has acquired a squadron of American F-5 jet aircraft, the ground forces have been motorized



Business travel to Kenya has increased, and the Kenyatta Conference Centre draws thousands of delegates to Nairobi.

increasingly, and the first main-battle tanks arrived in 1979. Obtaining modern anti-armor weaponry has been emphasized, and in 1979 Kenya signed a contract with the United States for helicopters mounted with TOW anti-aircraft missiles, delivered during 1980-81.

Although the Kenyan military has strong, close ties to the United Kingdom, Kenya also looks to the United States, Canada, Israel, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, and Pakistan for military equipment and professional training.

ECONOMY

After independence, Kenya promoted rapid economic growth through public investment, encouragement of small-holder agricultural production, and incentives for private (often foreign) industrial investment. Total gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annual average of 6.6% from 1963 to 1973. Agricultural production grew by 4.7% annually during the same period, stimulated by redistribution of estates to smallholders, rapid diffusion of new crop strains, and opening of new areas to cultivation.

Economic growth has declined since 1973, and real GDP has been growing at only about 2% for the 1979-81 period. Agricultural production, accounting for more than one-third of GDP and almost two-thirds of nonpetroleum exports, has averaged growth of less than 3% per year since 1972. This has been partly due to climatic conditions and external price development, but inconsistencies in pricing policy and credit availability, as well as inadequate marketing, have been even more important factors.

Kenya's basic problem is its population growth rate, now estimated to be the world's highest—about 4% per year. With less than 20% of the land classified as potentially arable, and much of that already densely populated, foodcrop production faces serious constraints. Mounting pressure on the land has resulted in further subdivision and landlessness in highly potential areas and settlement in semi-arid areas not well suited to farming. Rapid population growth also has added to unemployment, unofficially approaching 30% of the work force. Unemployment is higher in urban areas,

where the formal, wage-earning sector is increasingly hard pressed to absorb the annual increases in the work force. The demand for social services, such as health and education, also has escalated rapidly, placing ever-growing pressures on the budget and reducing funds available for development.

Kenya's manufacturing sector also has problems. The early, rapid growth of industrial production was based on investment in import substitution, often by multinational companies, and often behind extensive quantitative import barriers against competition. Manufacturing firms tend too often to be high-priced, uncompetitive net users of foreign exchange rather than earners, and many have not sought technology appropriate to Kenya, such as labor-intensive techniques. Vulnerable to swings in its international terms of trade, Kenya found its foreign exchange shortages exacerbated by rapid growth in import prices, especially oil, and a sharp drop in coffee and tea prices. Reserves dwindled to less than one month's worth of imports in the second quarter of 1982. Resulting import restrictions have hampered manufacturing production. Industry also has tended to focus on the domestic market, and manufactured exports have not expanded as fast as GDP in real terms.

Another problem has been the rapid expansion of government and parastatal activity. The public sector deficit reached 10.6% of GDP in the 1980-81 fiscal year. Government employment reached almost 50% of the formal, wage-earning work force. All of these developments have resulted in reduced growth rates estimated for the fourth 5-year development plan (1979-83). Target growth rates for real GDP have been revised downwards several times and probably will average well under the population growth rate; the average per capita GDP will have declined each year of the current development plan.

To attain real per capita income growth, the government has undertaken a major structural adjustment program and has committed itself to policy changes. It intends to revitalize the agricultural sector through more responsive and realistic producer prices and more efficient marketing and distribution. The industrial sector will be restructured to make it more competitive internationally, more export oriented, and more attuned to Kenya's need for labor intensive, agriculturally based industry. The government has agreed to limit severely the public sector

Travel Notes

Climate and clothing—Light and medium-weight clothing is worn most of the year. Sweaters and light raincoats are needed during the rainy seasons.

Customs—US citizens entering Kenya need a passport and visa.

Health—No special precautions are needed in Nairobi, and adequate hospital and outpatient treatment is available in the city. Outside the capital, avoid tapwater and unwashed fruits and vegetables. If possible, take antimalarial tablets. Yellow fever, polio, typhoid, and hepatitis immunizations are recommended for travelers to remote areas.

Travel—Many international airlines serve Nairobi. Most major towns are linked by Kenya Airways flights, good passenger train services, and intercity bus services. Places of special tourist interest are served by local light-aircraft companies. Taxis are abundant in Nairobi. Direct travel between Kenya and Tanzania may be impossible—check ahead. Nonesential travel by Americans into Uganda is discouraged.

Time—Kenya is seven time zones ahead of eastern standard time and does not observe daylight-saving time.

Tourist highlights—Masai Mara game reserve, Amboseli National Park, Tsavo National Park, Aberdare National Park, Lake Nakuru (flamingo sanctuary), Mombasa (beach and ocean sports), Nairobi National Park, National Museum of Kenya.

National Holidays

The U.S. Embassy is closed on the following Kenyan national holidays; shops and businesses are also closed.

New Year's Day	January 1
Good Friday*	
Easter Monday*	
Labor Day	May 1
Madaraka Day	June 1
Id-ul-Fitr*	
Kenyatta Day	October 20
Independence Day	December 12
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

*Date varies.

deficit and net borrowing from the banking sector. The Kenyan shilling was devalued substantially in 1981. New tariff schedules were introduced that effect a shift from quantitative controls to



Taave National Park, home to many species of wildlife, was established in 1948 and covers almost 21,000 sq. km. in southeast Kenya.

market oriented growth, and a new import priority schedule was announced that permits automatic licensing and foreign exchange allocations to some 70% of past imports. The government also has announced its intention to avoid direct participation in the private sector, to manage parastatals more efficiently, and to streamline investment requirements.

Structural adjustments cannot be carried out quickly, however, even if the government is successful in implementing its plans. Exports cannot be revitalized instantly, and the foreign exchange shortages will continue at least into 1985. Not only will more balance-of-

payments assistance be needed, in the form of structural adjustment credits from the World Bank and short-term assistance from the International Monetary Fund, but an increase in bilateral balance-of-payments assistance also will be required.

In the longer term, the success of these measures will depend on the population growth rate. In June 1982, the government signed a major new project agreement with the World Bank, also involving the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and other bilateral donors, in an effort to introduce wide-scale family planning.

However, as with the other measures, attempts to meet population problems have shown many weaknesses in planning and administration.

Opportunities for U.S. investors or exporters to Kenya exist but will be limited by slower growth. Agribusiness investors, particularly those who are export oriented, are especially welcome. If the government can streamline the investment process and reduce administrative delays, an increase in the current book value for U.S. investment could be expected in the next 5 years. Kenya also enjoys transportation, infrastructure, and environmental advantages that make it a desirable location for foreign firms to maintain branch and representative offices. The government is considering a reduction in the high income tax rate, which has tended to discourage some foreign firms from opening regional offices in Kenya.

The largest donor to Kenya is the World Bank. Other major donors include the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Japan, and Italy.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Kenya's foreign policy is based on:

- Nonalignment;
- Promotion of African unity, including self-determination for the peoples of southern Africa;
- Support for the principles of the U.N. Charter; and
- Support for international economic policies that will lead to an increased flow of resources and transfer of technology to developing nations.

Kenya enjoys good relations with Sudan and Ethiopia. Bilateral tension between Kenya and Uganda eased with the ousting of former President Idi Amin and the change of government in Uganda in April 1979. Tanzania reacted to the 1977 collapse of the EAC by closing the border with Kenya. Governmental contacts continue, but disposition of the assets and liabilities of the EAC and its corporations is taking considerable time to negotiate. Kenya's relations with Somalia are strained by Somalia's interest in the northeastern region of Kenya, where ethnic Somalis predominate.

Kenya maintains a moderate profile in Third World politics. However, during President Moi's chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1981-82, Kenya found itself drawn into foreign policy issues otherwise remote

from its immediate interests. Kenya's relations with Western countries are generally friendly.

U.S.-KENYA RELATIONS

The United States and Kenya enjoy cordial relations. More than 6,000 U.S. citizens reside in Kenya, and about 31,000 Americans visited there in 1980. The resident community includes about 1,400 missionaries and their families. In addition, more than 140 U.S. firms are represented in Kenya. U.S. business investment totals roughly \$315 million, primarily in commerce, light manufacturing, and the tourist industry.

The principal purpose of U.S. bilateral assistance to Kenya is to promote broad-based economic development as the basis for continued progress in political, social, and related areas of national life. U.S. aid strategy is structured around three major objectives:

- Reduced population growth;
- Increased rural production, employment, and income; and
- Efficient, basic social services.

The U.S. assistance program focuses on small farmers and the rural landless, a grouping that comprises more than four-fifths of Kenya's poorest citizens and accounts for about one-quarter of the population. U.S. assistance is directed toward high-potential agricultural lands in western Kenya and the arid and semi-arid area of Kitui District in Eastern Province. Development assistance in FY 1982 from loans and grants is estimated at \$34 million, with an additional \$20 million in PL 480 food aid.

The U.S. Peace Corps program in Kenya, with more than 200 volunteers, concentrates on agriculture and education. The U.S. Information Service

Further Information

These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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For information on foreign economic trends, commercial development, production, trade regulations, and tariff rates, contact the International Economic Policy Office, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

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(USIS) maintains a library and an educational counseling office in Nairobi and conducts an educational and cultural exchange program. U.S. business and educational representatives, Fulbright scholars, and other specialists visit Kenya frequently. Each year, the U.S. Government invites a number of prominent Kenyans to visit the United States.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—William C. Harrop
Deputy Chief of Mission—Robert G. Houdek

Public Affairs Officer (USIS)—Leonard L. Lefkow

The U.S. Embassy in Kenya is at Haile Selassie and Moi Avenues, Nairobi, P.O. Box 30137 (tel. 334141).

The U.S. Consulate in Mombasa is in Palli House, Nyerere Avenue, P.O. Box 88079 (tel. 315101). ■

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